

IN THE CLAIMS:

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled)

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1 50. (Currently Amended) A method of loading a film assembly comprising a first film
2 container provided with an internal spool and an additional spoolless film container having a
3 length of film a majority of which is wound in the spoolless film container, and which extends
4 to the first film container, comprising the sequential steps of:

- 5 a) providing a bulk roll of film, withdrawing a free end therefrom and securing to
6 a film winding tool;
- 7 b) in a dark environment rotating the film winding tool to wind the film into a coil
8 about the tool;
- 9 c) removing the wound coil from the film winding tool and enclosing the coil in
10 the additional film container so that the film extends through a film slot thereof;
- 11 d) before or after step c) cutting the film unwound from the bulk roll off said bulk
12 roll to give a trailing end;
- 13 e) securing said trailing end of film to the first film container.

1 51. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 50 wherein the first film
2 container is a conventional film patron having a central spool, at step e) the said trailing film
3 end being secured to the central spool.

1 52. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 50 utilizing an additional
2 container which comprises a housing which is closed by an end cap, the method involving, at
3 step c), [winding the film onto the film winding tool, followed by] insertion of the tool having

4 the film wound about the tool end into the additional film container, followed by removal of
5 the film winding tool from the coil.

1 53. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 52 wherein after removal of
2 the film winding tool the end cap is secured to the housing.

1 54. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 50 utilizing an additional film
2 container which comprises a housing formed in two half shells which co-operate to define a
3 film slot therebetween and have opposed edge regions at which the shell halves are joinable,
4 the method involving the step of, in a film winding apparatus, after step b), removing the film
5 winding tool [and] followed by enclosing the wound coil between the two half shells, with the
6 film extending from the film slot.

1 55. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 54 wherein the method
2 includes the step of cutting the film from the bulk roll after it has been wound into the coil and
3 before it is enclosed in the additional container.

1 56. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 50 further comprising the step
2 of attaching a removable clip to secure the first film container and additional film container
3 together.

1 57. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 50 further comprising the step
2 of inserting the assembly of first film container and additional film container into a package
3 which is sealed to contain the film containers.

1 58. (Previously Presented) A film assembly when loaded according to the method of
2 claim 50.

1 59. (Previously Presented) A camera when loaded with a film assembly according to
2 claim 58.

1 60. (Currently Amended) A method of loading a film assembly into a camera having a
2 pair of film chambers arranged on opposite sides of an exposure opening and a camera back
3 which closes the film chambers comprising the sequential steps of:

- 4 a) providing a bulk roll of film, withdrawing a free end therefrom and securing to a
5 film winding tool;
- 6 b) in a dark environment rotating the film winding tool to wind the film into a coil
7 about the tool;
- 8 c) removing the wound coil from the film winding tool and enclosing the coil in the
9 additional film container so that the film extends through a film slot thereof;
- 10 d) before or after step c) cutting the film unwound from the bulk roll off said bulk roll
11 to give a trailing end;
- 12 e) securing said trailing end of film to the first film container;
- 13 f) placing the film assembly in the camera with the containers in respective chambers
14 and closing the camera back.

1 61. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 60 wherein utilizing an
2 additional film container which comprises a housing formed in two half shells which co-operate
3 to define a film slot therebetween and have opposed edge regions at which the shell halves are
4 joinable, the method involving the step of, in a film winding apparatus, after step b), removing
5 the film winding tool [and] followed by enclosing the wound coil between the two half shells,
6 with the film extending from the film slot.

1 62. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 60 wherein the film carries
2 pre-exposed latent images, the method involving at step f) the additional step of ensuring that
3 an alignment mark on the film is arranged in alignment with an alignment mark on the camera
4 so as to ensure correct alignment of user-exposed images and pre-exposed images.

1 63. (New) A method of loading a film assembly comprising a first film container
2 provided with an internal spool and an additional film container having a length of film a
3 majority of which is wound in the additional film container, and which extends to the first film
4 container, the additional film container having a housing free of any film spool and comprising
5 a pair of shell halves which together define a film slot through which, in use, film may extend
6 wherein each shell half is provided with an edge region which faces the edge region of the
7 other shell half defining the film slot therebetween and defining a film exit plane, the two shell
8 halves of the housing being joined along a plane substantially parallel to said exit plane, the
9 method comprising the sequential steps of:

10 a) providing a bulk roll of film, withdrawing a free end therefrom and securing to a
11 film winding tool;
12 b) in a dark environment rotating the film winding tool to wind the film into a coil
13 about the tool;
14 c) removing the wound coil from the film winding tool and enclosing the coil in the
15 additional film container so that the film extends through a film slot thereof;
16 d) before or after step c) cutting the film unwound from the bulk roll off said bulk roll
17 to give a trailing end;
18 e) securing said trailing end of film to the first film container.

1 64. (New) A method according to claim 63 wherein the shell halves of the additional
2 film container having securing means providing a snap-fit connection therebetween, step c)
3 involving connecting the shell halves through said snap-fit connection.

1 65. (New) A method of loading a film assembly comprising a first film container
2 provided with an intenal spool and an additional film container having a length of film a
3 majority of which is wound in the additional film container, and which extends to the first film
4 container, the additional film container having a housing free of any film spool and comprising
5 a pair of shell halves which together define a film slot through which, in use, film may extend
6 wherein each shell half is provided with an edge region which faces the edge region of the
7 other shell half, defining the film slot therebetween and defining a film exit plane, the two shell
8 halves of the housing being joined along a plane substantially perpendicular to said exit plane
9 and parallel to the container axis, the method comprising the sequential steps of:

- 10 a) providing a bulk roll of film, withdrawing a free end therefrom and securing to a
11 film winding tool;
12 b) in a dark environment rotating the film winding tool to wind the film into a coil
13 about the tool;
14 c) removing the wound coil from the film winding tool and enclosing the coil in the
15 additional film container so that the film extends through a film slot thereof;
16 d) before or after step c) cutting the film unwound from the bulk roll off said bulk roll
17 to give a trailing end;
18 e) securing said trailing end of film to the first film container.

- 1 66. (New) A method according to claim 65 wherein the shell halves of the additional
- 2 film container have securing means providing a snap-fit connection therebetween, step c)
- 3 involving connecting the shell halves through said snap-fit connection.